

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (canceled).

5. (presently amended): The A light beam scanning apparatus ~~according to claim 1,~~
further comprising:

~~an image retaining member on whose surface an electrostatic latent image is formed
by the scanning of said scanning means,~~

~~a developing unit for developing the electrostatic latent image formed on said image
retaining member to form a toner image, and~~

~~a transfer unit for transferring said toner image onto a sheet of paper, wherein~~

~~more than one unit of said light beam generating means is provided, and plural light
beam generating means each for generating a light beam;~~

~~said scanning means for scans scanning said a scan surface simultaneously with the
light beams generated by said plural light beam generating means; and wherein said light
beam scanning apparatus further comprising~~

~~light beam position sensing means for sensing the passing positions of the light beams
in the direction perpendicular to the direction in which the light beams scan, the light beams
being directed by the scanning means; so that they may scan the surface of said image
retaining member,~~

~~malfunction sensing means for sensing that a malfunction using said light beam
position sensing means; has occurred in said plural light beam generating means, and~~

~~control means for stopping the light-emitting operation of the light beam generating
means that has malfunctioned, when the malfunction sensing means has sensed that a~~

malfunction has occurred in the light beam generating means, and continuing to form an image by the operation of the remaining good light beam generating means.

6. (presently amended): The light beam scanning apparatus according to claim 5 4, further comprising:

~~light beam position sensing means for sensing the passing positions of the light beams in the direction perpendicular to the direction in which the light beams scan, the light beams being directed by the scanning means so that they may scan the surface of said image retaining member;~~

calculation means for calculating ~~the~~ an amount of deflection of the optical path to deflect the passing positions of said light beams to desired positions on said image retaining member on the basis of each sensing result of the light beam position sensing means;

~~plural~~ optical path deflection means which is ~~are~~ provided for said light beams respectively and is ~~are~~ used to change ~~each~~ of the passing positions of said light beams on said image retaining member on the basis of the amount of deflection of ~~each~~ optical path calculated at said calculation means.;

~~malfunction sensing means for sensing that a malfunction has occurred in said plural light beam generating means; and~~

~~control means for stopping the light emitting operation of the light beam generating means that has malfunctioned, when the malfunction sensing means has sensed that a malfunction has occurred in the light beam generating means, and continuing to form an image by the operation of the remaining good light beam generating means.~~

7. (original): The light beam scanning apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising guide display means for informing the user of the apparatus of the malfunction state by displaying a guide, when said malfunction sensing means has sensed that a malfunction has occurred in the light beam generating means.

Claims 8-10 (canceled).

11. (presently amended): The light beam scanning apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

~~light beam position sensing means for sensing the light beams directed by the scanning means so that they may scan the surface of said image retaining member by means of light sensing elements arranged in parallel at intervals corresponding to the resolutions in the direction almost perpendicular to the direction in which said light beams scan;~~

resolution conversion means for, when said malfunction sensing means has sensed that a malfunction has occurred in the light beam generating means, converting the resolution during image formation according to the number of the remaining good light beam generating means excluding the light beam generating means that has malfunctioned;~~;~~ and

~~control means for, when said malfunction sensing means has sensed that a malfunction has occurred in the light beam generating means, stopping the light emitting operation of the light beam generating means that has malfunctioned and causing the image formation to be continued at the resolution converted by said resolution conversion means by the operation of the remaining good light beam generating means.~~

12. (presently amended): An image forming apparatus ~~which forms an image on an image retaining member by causing light beams to scan and expose the surface of said image retaining member,~~ comprising:

plural light beam generating means each for generating light beams;

scanning means for scanning a scan the surface simultaneously ~~of said image retaining member~~ with the light beams generated by ~~at the plural~~ the light beam generating means,

an image retaining member on whose surface an electrostatic latent image is formed by the scanning of said scanning;

a developing unit for developing the electrostatic latent image formed on said image retaining member to form a toner image;

a transfer unit for transferring said toner image onto a sheet of paper;

light beam position sensing means for sensing the passing positions of the light beams in the direction perpendicular to the direction in which the light beams scan, the light beams being directed by the scanning means so that they may scan the surface of said image retaining member;

~~plural optical path deflection means which are provided for said light beams in a one to one ratio and are used to change each of the passing positions of said light beams on said image retaining member on the basis of the amount of deflection of each optical path calculated at the said calculation means;~~

malfunction sensing means for sensing that a malfunction using said light beam position sensing means has occurred in said plural light beam generating means; and

control means for stopping the light-emitting operation of the light beam generating means that has malfunctioned, when the malfunction sensing means has sensed that a malfunction has occurred in the light beam generating means, and continuing to form an image causing the image formation to be continued by the operation of the remaining good light beam generating means.

13. (presently amended): The An image forming apparatus according to claim 12 ~~which forms an image on an image retaining member by causing light 10 beams to scan and expose the surface of said image retaining member, further comprising:~~

~~plural light beam generating means for generating light beams;~~

~~scanning means for scanning the surface of said image retaining member with the light beams generated at the plural light beam generating means;~~

~~light beam position sensing means for sensing the passing positions of the light beams in the direction perpendicular to the direction in which the light beams scan, the light beams being directed by the scanning means so that they may scan the surface of said image retaining member;~~

calculation means for calculating the an amount of deflection of the optical path to deflect the passing positions of said light beams to desired positions on said image retaining member on the basis of each sensing result of the light beam position sensing means;

~~plural~~ optical path deflection means which are provided for said light beams in a one-to-one ratio and are used to change each of the passing positions of said light beams on said image retaining member on the basis of the amount of deflection of each optical path calculated at said calculation means;

~~malfunction sensing means for sensing that a malfunction has occurred in said plural light beam generating means; and~~

~~control means for stopping the light emitting operation of the light beam generating means that has malfunctioned, when the malfunction sensing means has sensed that a malfunction has occurred in the light beam generating means, and causing the image formation to be continued by the operation of the remaining good light beam generating means.~~

14. (presently amended): The ~~light beam scanning~~ image forming apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising guide display means for informing the user of the apparatus of the abnormal state by displaying a guide, when said malfunction sensing means has sensed that a malfunction has occurred in the light beam generating means.

Claims 15-17 (canceled).

18. (presently amended): The image forming ~~light beam scanning~~ apparatus according to claim 12 ~~13~~, further comprising:

~~light beam position sensing means for sensing the light beams directed by the scanning means so that they may scan the surface of said image retaining member by means of light sensing elements arranged in parallel at intervals corresponding to resolutions in the direction almost perpendicular to the direction in which said light beams scan;~~

resolution conversion means for, when said malfunction sensing means has sensed that a malfunction has occurred in the light beam generating means, converting the resolution during image formation according to the number of the remaining good light beam generating means excluding the light beam generating means that has malfunctioned, and

~~control means for, when said malfunction sensing means has sensed that a malfunction has occurred in the light beam generating means, stopping the light emitting operation of the light beam generating means that has malfunctioned and causing the image formation to be continued at the resolution converted by said resolution conversion means by the operation of the remaining good light beam generating means.~~

Claims 19-21 (canceled).

22. (new): The light beam scanning apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the malfunction occurs in one of said plural light beam generating means and said optical path deflection means.

23. (new): The light beam scanning apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the control means continues the image forming operation using the remaining good light beam generating means alone.

24. (new): The light beam scanning apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said optical path deflection means comprises a galvanomirror.

25. (new): The light beam scanning apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the light beam position sensing means includes a group consisting of plural light sensing elements arranged in parallel with each other in a direction orthogonal to the scanning direction of the plural light beams, at intervals corresponding to plural resolutions.

26. (new): The image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the malfunction occurs in one of said plural light beam generating means and said optical path deflection means.

27. (new): The image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the control means continues the image forming operation using the remaining good light beam generating means alone.

28. (new): The image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said optical path deflection means comprises a galvanomirror.

29. (new): The image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the light beam position sensing means includes a group consisting of plural light sensing elements arranged in parallel with each other in a direction orthogonal to the scanning direction of the plural light beams, at intervals corresponding to plural resolutions.